AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

MOVE TO ESTABLISH INDUSTRIAL PEACE

Indianapolis, July 13.—The Bricklayers', Masons' and Plasterers' Journal, in commenting the work of the labor war board, says:

"The industrial peace plan established by the representatives of all sides, labor and the public, as a part of the third part, to the effect that there will be no lockouts or strikes during the period of the war, is a victorious achievement. The importance of which is beyond exaggeration.

"The agreement reached, and published early in April, is the result of conferences arranged by the United States department of labor, at which took part six representatives of capital, six representatives of organized labor, and the head of the three federal commission of industrial relations, as representatives of the people, the terms of the agreement reached broadly covers the entire industrial field and is under that one one, not fanatically irreconcilable can find fault with it. Under its terms neither capital nor labor will claim any advantages in the principles and policies laid down. Existing standards of wages are to be protected to the point of final decision with scrupulous fairness.

"Although labor reserves its right to strike, its right to organize and treat collectively is affirmed, and where union conditions exist there is no modification of them. The right of all employees to a living wage, the subsistence of themselves and families in health and reasonable comfort is declared, and that is the basic distinction as to wages. The public, the great third party to the agreement, is protected of a maximum production of all war necessities, both of the part of employers and employes, without regard to increased cost.

"Although the agreement has been in working order for but a short time, we have no doubt it will meet the approval of the public, employes and employers. There may be exceptions (note the Western Union Telegraph company), as strange as it may seem all concession is abhorrent and to whom any compromise means defeat. This class, fortunately, is few in numbers and its influence inconsiderable, although it may manage at times to make its opinions heard.

"This agreement does not necessarily mean that all differences have ceased. Labor and capital will still have their differences. But they will have a means of progressing to a settlement by mediation. And, should mediation fail, an umpire, selected from a list of ten names selected by President Wilson, will make the final decision.

"In the meantime work has continued and the war program has not suffered no diminution, and that is the essential condition for victory.

"This agreement is a monumental and most encouraging, and, if carried out, in good faith by both parties, may lead to a permanent peace that will have its beneficient results in the post-bellum period."

STRIKES PROHIBITED.

Washington, July 13.—Strikes are prohibited for the period of the war, under an agreement reached between the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, the American Steamship association and the shipping board.

Union engineers agree to submit grievances to the board for settlement will become subject to discipline by the association.

Overtime payment for all work done of watch on board vessels, or at all seas, except Kentucky, 202 men were killed during February, 1918, in and about the mines of the states reporting, as compared with 165 in the same states in February, 1917. During the first two months of 1918, 296 men were killed by coal mine accidents in the United States. This number does not include fatalities in Kentucky during the period stated, for which no report has been received. During the corresponding months of 1917, after eliminating the same state for purposes of comparison, there were 372 fatalities. Thus the 1918 figures show a decrease of 76 fatalities over the record of the previous year."

PAINTERS ON STRIKE.

Meriden, Conn., July 13.—The union painters of the city have gone on strike for two weeks. They demand a daily wage of $5 and recognition of their union. They have served a written notice on the boss painters that they intend a conference to consider the demands, no response was received. Because of that action the men are forcing the fight for recognition.

APPOINTED TO GOOD JOB.

Boston, July 12.—John F. Stevens, president of the central labor union, has been appointed a member of the trustees of the Boston Elevated railway system at a salary of $5,000 per year. It is the first time a governor has favored a labor man with a salaried position that paid over $2,500 per year.

PRINTERS WANT INCREASE.

Jackson, Mich., July 12.—The three-year agreement which expired for $18 and $22 will terminate August 1. A new agreement is framed for presentation on that date which demands $30 for adenen, floormen, stonemen and machine compositors, $32 for machinists-operators, and $33 for foremen.

GETTING MORE PAY.

Kansas City, Mo., July 12.—Cigar Makers' union No. 102 are working under a new agreement with the manufacturers, a new bill of prices having gone into effect July 1, whereby the price per thousand will be from $1 to $2 higher.

BOILER MAKERS ORGANIZE.

Wilmington, N. C., July 12.—A union of boiler workers and iron shipbuilders and helpers was completed here and is said to include in its membership all the men employed on the city, and is probably one of the largest in the south.

IT IS HERE TO STAY.

St. Louis, Mo., July 12.—In discussing collective bargaining, Reedy's Mirror says:

"Collective bargaining is here and it has come to stay. Only the most powerful enough to enforce the principle of collective bargaining are getting the best wages. Trade unionism is getting what it demands. Unorganized workers are lagging behind in rates of pay. The worker cannot depend on generosity. He is given nothing. He gets what he can win no more.

"The individual worker cannot do much to better his condition in connection with others he can do much. Therefore they organize. They have been against the employer's coercion. It is their answer to the employers' utilization of the individual worker's necessities. It is that worker into acceptance of the lowest wage consistent with subsistence. The employer appeals to 'natural law.' There 'aint no such thing' in the business world. Only the coercion of the job. To correct that unnatural law trade unionism has come into existence. It will remain until there comes into action another method of making natural law natural."

TO ERECT LABOR TEMPLE.

Tacoma, Wash., July 13.—The labor temple one-day-wage fund received another boost last week when the machinists, carpenters and the painters' unions voted a day's pay to the fund. The makes 17 labor organizations that have voted to give a day's pay for a labor temple. Included among these is the shipyard laborers' union of 2,500 members. This organization will contribute $15,000. At present about half of the total amount needed for the labor temple has been pledged.

It is planned to build a five or six-story modern office building on a six-by-six-hundred-feet. Office space for all the unions in the city, with auditoriums and lodge rooms for their committee meetings will be provided. There are about 20,000 members of organized labor in the city and the financial plan of a day's pay from each will be carried out, will provide the necessary funds.

MINIMUM WAGE FOR WOMEN.

San Francisco, July 12.—An order fixing a $90 weekly minimum wage for women employed in professional and general offices has been issued by the state industrial welfare commission. It becomes effective July 22.

The commission fixed the minimum wage for persons over 18 years of age at $8 a week for the first six months and $9 minimum for the second six months. The $10 minimum must be paid after a year's employment, the order stated. The number of women employed in offices was not set at more than 25 per cent of the total number of employes. The lowest wage for minors under 18 years of age the new terms is $7 a week, with a minimum of $8 after six months' employment. In cases of physical disability permission for the payment of a lower wage may be granted. The minimum must be secured from the commission, which will fix the wage of the individual.

WANT TO CRUSH THE UNION.

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, July 12.—The management of the York Knitting Mills has started a bitter fight to destroy the newly formed union of textile workers, formed among the girl employes. Several members of the new union were discharged. A strike was called to secure their reemployment, but they have not as yet been successful. The city commissioner, who is a government official who recommended that the management recede from the opposition, it refused to comply.

TO FIX MINIMUM WAGE

Washington, July 13.—The House committee on labor agreed to report out the Keating bill to provide a minimum wage board to fix the wages of women and children in the District of Columbia. The bill was reported from the district committee by unanimous vote after hearings at which no opposition developed.

The bill created a permanent wage board to serve for two years to appoint a subordinate wage board for each occupation. These latter boards would consist of representatives of employers, employes and the public and fix a fair wage.

WANT SHORTER HOURS.

Thorold, Ontario, Canada, July 13. —Six hundred paper workers are on strike to secure more pay and eight hours per day. The paper mill is owned by the Ontario government and the machinists employed by the same company are also out supporting the other workers. The company offered to concede the machinists the shorter hours and an increase in wages to 69 cents, but they rejected the offer, until a settlement is made with the other strikers.

SHOPMEN'S WAGES FIXED.

Washington, July 12.—The board of railroad wages and working conditions of the railroad administration has made the recommendations on the complaint filed by the mechanical shop crafts that the wage recommendations recently made were unsatisfactory.

The recommendations were telegraphed to Director General McAdoo, who is in the west and were not made public. Briefly the men asked to be affected by these recommendations.

CARPENTERS STILL OUT.

Dallas, Tex., July 12.—No adjustment of the differences between the members of the Carpenters' union and the Builders' association over the refusal of the latter to pay the $6.40 rate fixed by the arbitration board, the building commission of the board had no authority to render such a decision. The builders have offered to pay $6. An effort is being made to secure the services of a government mediator.

RAISE UP TO WAR BOARD.

Erie, Pa., July 13.—The members of the Electrical Workers' union have been asking an increase in wages from the employers for some time past. They deferred action when given the assurance that their demands would be given consideration by the war labor board. They demand an advance from 62½ cents to 75 cents an hour.

FINALLY WOKE UP.

York, Pa., July 13.—After a long Rip Van Winkle sleep the stationary engineers' union of this city has awakened up and are now associating with the other unions of the city, having formed a union with a fairly good roster.

BREAKS THE RECORD.

Kansas City, Mo., July 12.—General Secretary-Treasurer John P. Bray of the United Mine Workers of America reports a new record of unions organized during the past 60 days, the number being 2, as follows: No. 536, Wheeling, W. Va.; No. 537, Keyser, W. Va.; No. 538, Pittsburgh, Pa.; No. 539, Cumberland, Md.; No. 540, Easton, Pa.; No. 541, Chicago, Ill.; No. 542, Two Harbors, Mich.; No. 543, Philadelphia, Pa.; No. 544, Wilmington, Del.; No. 545, Washington, Ind.; No. 546, Evansville, Ind.; No. 547, Havelock, Neb.; No. 548, Plattsmouth, Neb.; No. 549, Fairmont, Minn.; No. 550, Greensburg, Pa.; No. 551, San Benardio, Cal.; No. 552, Chickasha, Okla.; No. 553, Greenville, Ind.; No. 554, Lyons, Tex.; No. 555, Pittsburg, Pa.; No. 556, Grand Island, Neb.; No. 557, North Platte Neb.; No. 558, Dennison, O.; No. 562, Joliet, Ill.; No. 563, Morrison Park, N. Y.; No. 564, Jersey City, N. J.; No. 565, Covington, Ky.; No. 566, Aurora, Ill.; No. 567, Alexandria, Ind.; No. 568, Elwood, Ind.; No. 569, San Diego, Cal.; No. 569, Wilmington, N. C.; No. 575, Two Rivers, Wis."

SHORTER DAY GETS RESULTS.

Spokane, Wash., July 13.—According to statistics gathered by the Spokane association of the Timber Products Manufacturers, which includes in its membership 90 per cent of the organization the largest operators in the industry here, the lumber mills and camps in the Spokane district are showing increased efficiency under the shorter working day for labor.

"The eight-hour day became effective in the Spokane country January 1, the date of Secretary Reynolds. "Figures compiled by operators show that the per-hour production of the mills has risen simply run riot in this blind area of business inattention. Of course, it is cheaper to run a number of mills than a few of money. If managers have no other way than that of idle mills and machines, the losses on which are supposed as proper investments for which a profit is due, they will not make the exorbitant price of a small net output. Such managers would prefer to pocket the loss and avoid the trouble of operating. The simple men skilled in filling orders, who find a ready demand in the materials of public necessity, are the men with the brains who scratched the surface of the waste that turns abundance into scarcity and makes whole nations starve."

GAVE TWO AMBULANCES.

Brooklyn, N. Y., July 12.—Secretary of Labor Wilson accepted for the government on behalf of the United Ambulances, the gift of District No. 15 of the International Association of Machinists here. A large audience was gathered for the ceremony in the Academy of Music, disappointed by not seeing the ambulances.

Mrs. Grace C. Klugg, president of the Women's Auxiliary of No. 15, which raised the money, handed Mr. Wilson the contracts under which the ambulances were built. She told how the machines were shipped abroad and how, in the active service they are on the western front. The $6,000 needed for the enterprise was raised in Brooklyn, Manhattan and New York that the ambulances could not wait for the formal ceremony.

Mr. Wilson, in formally accepting, praised labor for its part in the war.

RAILROAD SHOPMEN MEET.

Altoona, Pa., July 12.—The first convention of the system federation of organized shopmen of the Pennsylvania railroad in this city with about 200 delegates present from all parts of the country. Many prominent labor leaders were in attendance although Pennsylvania railroad shopmen have only recently been organized, it is said they are about 95 per cent union.

COURT'S DECISION FINAL.

Washington, July 12.—No effort will be made by the department of justice to have the supreme court reverse the decision rendered last term declaring the child labor law unconstitutional. That information was given out today by Solicitor General Davis. The department of justice, it is understood, feels that the decision is so clear that the court will be unwilling to reopen the proceedings.

INCREASE 20 CENTS AN HOUR.

Peoria, Ill., July 13.—Members of the Machinists' union have been advanced in pay 20 cents per hour, making the minimum rate 62½ cents. In 1912 their pay was 32½-5 cents per hour. The union now has a membership of 1,200 and the number only about 75 work in contract shops.

BARBERS GET AN ADVANCE.

Tampa, Fla., July 13.—In order to avoid a threatened strike, the boss barbers agreed to the demands of the Barbers' union for an increase in wages. The new wage guarantees $22 per week and 40 per cent on all over $22.

CARMEN FORM UNION.

Tampa, Fla., July 13.—A lodge of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has been completed at Port Tampa, and will be known as the Orange Belt lodge.

BARTENDERS GET $5 RATE.

Oakland, Cal., July 13.—The Bartenders' union has just put into effect a general increase and are engaged in a campaign to defeat a measure before the legislature that is intended to put them out of business.

PROFITEERING BEEF TRUST UNRESTRAINED

Chicago, July 12.—The leading American meat packers have been increasing their capitalization at a great rate lately. Within the last month or so they have projected new financing to the extent of $60,000,000. This dwarfs their capital stocks on the breaking out of the European war. The advances in capitalization are not for any out purpose. Whatever their ultimate effect may be is not now plainly discernible, but without doubt they have a bearing on the public during the war and probably greater thereafter.

Swift & Co., briefly to mention the financing of the last few weeks, voted on May 15 to issue $20,000,000 of new stock, half of which was a stock dividend. Armour & Co. followed a couple of weeks later with the sale of $60,000,000 of debenture bonds convertible into preferred stock, and almost simultaneously made announcement of a forthcoming issue of $50,000,000 of common stock. Another of its disposition was not disclosed.

The Swift capitalization now stands at $150,000,000. The issue of $50,000,000 common by Armour will bring its capitalization to $150,000,000. In addition, Armour will have out $60,000,000 debentures which may be turned into $60,000,000 more stock, and if all are converted, Armour will then have capital stock of $210,000,000.

Dividends must be paid on all this stock.

These are great days for the packers. Armour has absorbed Nelson Morris & Co. Swift & Co. has absorbed the Hammond Packing company, the Shattuck Mining company, M. J. Cunningham, Inc., the Omaha Packing company, Sheriff Harry Wheeler, F. B. King, Gerald Sherman and others alleged to have been associated with the wholesale deportation of miners.

GAIN 10 CENTS AN HOUR.

Memphis, Tenn., July 12.—Electrical Workers' union No. 474 has instructed its business agent to get in touch with the contractors and the bosses in the various shops and ask for an increase of 10 cents per hour. In case a conference an understanding was reached whereby the contractors consented to raise the pay of the men 10 cents, making the hourly rate 75 cents. Scarcity of electricians may make it necessary for the men to work 10 hours with the regular overtime pay.

STREET CAR MEN ORGANIZE.

Bridgeport, N. J., July 12. — Employment of women in glass factories is condemned by the Consumers' League in the report to the annual convention in this city. After reviewing conditions, they say:

"In view of these facts the conclusion is that the employment of women at night in glass factories is entirely unwarranted and should be strenuously opposed. The fact that temporarily the demand for the furnace shed and the outer air is also sufficient menace to their health. They are compelled to stand at their work, drink from a common pail and dipper and have to 'carry in' must do continuous lifting."

BIGGEST PROBLEM.

Washington, July 12.—The task of mobilizing labor for war industries throughout the nation and placing each man where he will be most effective in the war program is the biggest undertaking than the war department's plan of raising an army of 5,000,000. Felix Frankfurter, assistant to the secretary of labor, chief of the United States employment service in a conference here.

He told the employment service officials that the success of the army in France will be measured only by the efficiency of labor at the factories at home running with the needed number of workers. The department man present to extend the arm of the service into every corner of his state or district.

WIRE THEIR APPRECIATION.

Washington, July 12.—President Wilson has received the following telegram from the Federation of Trade unions in conference at Leicester expressing appreciation of America's services to the cause of liberty in this world crisis. Labor welcomes America's increasing power and has implicit faith in her determination to see that democracy shall not suffer defeat."

ALL DRUG STORES UNION.

Wheeling, W. Va., July 13.—The recently formed Retail Clerks' Protective association No. 246, comprising the drug clerks, under that head has settled with every druggist in the city, all of whom will now operate on the Key system. No opposition is anticipated.

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PAINTERS ARE ORGANIZED.

Manitou, Col., July 12.—Painters and Decorators' union No. 61 has been organized.

TEXTILE WORKERS WIN.

Lowell, Mass., July 13.—With the resumption of work in the cotton mills in this city, which were idle on account of the strike of the employes, there is no possibility of a similar strike in the mill, as long as the war lasts. The decision reached, provides that all future labor troubles shall be referred to the war labor board and that no strikes shall take place while the war lasts. Both sides agreed to the decision. The employes will be granted an increase in wages of 15 per cent from June 17. They were granted increases ranging from 10 to 15½ per cent on June 17, but demanded the 15 per cent raise. In the seven mills in which a strike existed and which employed about 15,000 people, cotton cloth for the United States government is being manufactured.

Lawrence, Mass., July 12.—An award by the mediator has given the striking weavers in the mills of the American Woolen company an increase of 50 per cent. The award also abolishes the premium system, which was opposed by the union operatives.

DEPORTED MEN FILE SUIT.

Bisbee, Ariz., July 12.—One hundred and eighty-four men deported at Tombstone by the men deported from Bisbee and the Warren district on July 12, 1917, have filed suit for damages aggregating upward of $2,158,000.

The actions were filed against the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad company, the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining company, the Shattuck Mining company, M. J. Cunningham, Inc., the Bisbee Commercial Sheriff Harry Wheeler, F. B. King, Gerald Sherman and others alleged to have been associated with the wholesale deportation of miners.

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MENACE TO HEALTH.

Washington, July 12.—Establishment of a woman's division in the department of labor, as authorized by congress, to investigate methods for a more effective use of women's services by war industries is announced by Secretary Wilson.

Miss Mary Van Kleeck, who has been chief of the woman's division of the ordnance bureau, has been named director and Miss Gertrude Beeks will have as an assistant Miss Mary Anderson, who has been supervisor of the women's division of the industrial section.

Miss Anderson is the first woman to an executive position in the army from the ranks of trade unionism, being a shoe workers' union official.

JOB PRINTERS STRIKE.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, July 12.—Job printers to the number of over 200 are on strike to enforce a new wage scale which provides for an increase of $5 a week over the present rate of $22 a week. Since the strike has been declared a number of shops have signed up and their printers have returned to work under the new conditions. It is not expected that the trouble will be on long before matters will be satisfactorily adjusted and all the offices running again under the new scale.

STREET CAR TIE-UP.

Vancouver, B. C., July 12.—Vancouver is walking. A strike of street railway men and electricians tied up transportation in the British Columbia Electric company. Interurban lines to Stevenson and New West Minster are closed to-day and the city is faced with a famine in milk and other supplies. The men are demanding an eight hour day and advances in wages.

MOVIE ACTORS EXEMPT.

Washington, July 12.—The office of the provost marshal general authorizes the announcement that skilled actors, including legitimate performers engaged in the production and presentation of motion pictures, will not be placed in classes deferred by the selective service regulations as being engaged in nonessential industries. This ruling does not apply to those who are actual performers in legitimate concerts.

WANT UNION RECOGNITION.

Leavenworth, July 13.—Laundry workers of this city, including wagon drivers, and the laundries themselves, went on strike because their demand for better working conditions, shortened hours and recognition of their unions was refused. The teamsters, who struck two weeks ago because they refused to handle laundry, refused are still out. The strike not only affects the residents of this city but also Fort Leavenworth.

STRIKE PARTIALLY WON.

Wheeling, W. Va., July 13.—The strike of Stogie Makers' union No. 144 and Girl Stippers union No. 14,587 has been partially won. Under the agreement the manufacturers will grant an increase of $1 per thousand and the girls about one cent a pound for stripping. The first holding out are Marsh & Sons and Pollack.

BROOM MAKERS GET RAISE.

Los Angeles, Cal., July 13.—The broom makers have established a flat rate of $5 per day and secured an eight-hour day.

UNION FIRE FIGHTERS.

St. Joseph, Mo., July 12.—Ninety-nine men employed by the city fire department formed Fire Fighters' union No. 91 and have applied for a charter from the international association.

BOARDS TO BE APPOINTED.

Washington, July 12.—Plans for the mobilization and distribution of labor for war industries are being perfected by the war labor policies board. Its organization is to be extended into every State and industrial city in the country.

Community labor boards will be established to have general jurisdiction over the recruiting and distribution of labor. They will put into effect in each community the policies of the war labor policies board, as the local draft boards put in effect selective conscription.

Each board of three members each, one nominated by the local chamber of commerce, employers' association and manufacturers' association, one by the local federation of labor, and both of these appointed by state directors of the United States public service reserve. The third member, who will preside, will be a representative of the United States employment service.

The community boards will not only assist in enlisting labor, but will determine the respective needs of the various war industries and assign the available labor reserve to these industries in the order of their importance.

TO UNITE LABOR OF NATIONS.

London, July 12.—A conference of delegates representing the British trade unionists, held in the house of commons, adopted a resolution providing for the summoning of an international trades union bureau to secure closer relations between the trades unionists of America, colonial, allied and neutral workers, with a view to formulating a trades union policy during and after the war. The bureau also will consider the advisability of appointing labor representatives to the respective countries as agents of international trade unionism. The movement is the outcome of the recent visit here of American labor delegates.

SHIPYARD WORKERS MEET EVERY DEMAND

Washington, July 12.—Labor and American shipyards has responded to the unusual demands upon it with a spirit and enthusiasm that not only assures rapid progress in the building program, but does much to ease the task of men who are charged with supplying vessels to keep a continuous stream of troops going to Europe and to provide them with food and munitions after they get there.

Chairman Hurley of the shipping board, in speaking of the wonderful progress made, said:

"Our shipbuilding industry is one of the marvels of the country. We have about 350,000 workers in the shipyards, building mercantile vessels, and fully 200,000 men in the iron works, steel mills, machine shops and other factories engaged in making shipbuilding materials. Altogether, in power, there are only two industries in the country that exceed shipbuilding, with 800,000 workers, and the iron foundries, with 700,000 men.

"A year ago these industries did not exist. It was necessary to create out of nothing, more than 350 shipyards, and find the workers, and train them. We have put new shipbuilding down and around our coasts and on the great lakes.

"The Pacific coast answered with a great response, and then came the other district. The great lakes are building ships, and ships built there through the rivers and canals. The great iron and steel section of Pennsylvania is also a great ship section, as is American colonial, allied and neutral workers, with a view to formulating a trades union policy during and after the war. The bureau also will consider the advisability of appointing labor representatives to the respective countries as agents of international trade unionism. The movement is the outcome of the recent visit here of American labor delegates.

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LABOR DAY WALLOPERS.

Brooklyn, N. Y., July 12.—Sixteen women bundle girls are working daily with 132-pound bags of coffee between the docks and trucks, standing side by side with muscular men long used to this hard job. They are the first women ever employed by the New York Dock company.

There would be 19 of these female dock walloperes were it not for the fact that three of the number engaged were fired on account of their cussing.

Among the present 16 are an author, a professional singer, two married widows, and two negro women. Their hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p. m., five days a week. They are paid 22 1-2 cents an hour, the rate paid to men.

INCREASES SECURED.

Champaign, Ill., July 12.—The plumbers have been granted an increase of 25 per cent in their wages, the rate which was continued for two months. Without a strike the carpenters were granted an advance, starting from 45 to 50 cents per hour. Building laborers have established a minimum wage of 35 cents per hour. The electrical workers have been on strike since May 1 to enforce a minimum wage of 75 per day.

$5 A DAY RATE FIXED.

Waco, Tex., July 12.—At the state convention of Bricklayers' union it was revealed that all but four of the unions of the state had established a wage scale of $5 per day. The convention set the scale of wages throughout the entire state, which is considered a victory for the union.

LADY DOCK WALLOPERS.

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Champaign, Ill., July 12.—The plumbers have been granted an increase of 25 per cent in their wages, the rate which was continued for two months. Without a strike the carpenters were granted an advance, starting from 45 to 50 cents per hour. Building laborers have established a minimum wage of 35 cents per hour. The electrical workers have been on strike since May 1 to enforce a minimum wage of 75 per day.

$5 A DAY RATE FIXED.

Waco, Tex., July 12.—At the state convention of Bricklayers' union it was revealed that all but four of the unions of the state had established a wage scale of $5 per day. The convention set the scale of wages throughout the entire state, which is considered a victory for the union.

SHIPYARD WORKERS MEET EVERY DEMAND

Washington, July 12.—Labor and American shipyards has responded to the unusual demands upon it with a spirit and enthusiasm that not only assures rapid progress in the building program, but does much to ease the task of men who are charged with supplying vessels to keep a continuous stream of troops going to Europe and to provide them with food and munitions after they get there.

Chairman Hurley of the shipping board, in speaking of the wonderful progress made, said:

"Our shipbuilding industry is one of the marvels of the country. We have about 350,000 workers in the shipyards, building mercantile vessels, and fully 200,000 men in the iron works, steel mills, machine shops and other factories engaged in making shipbuilding materials. Altogether, in power, there are only two industries in the country that exceed shipbuilding, with 800,000 workers, and the iron foundries, with 700,000 men.

"A year ago these industries did not exist. It was necessary to create out of nothing, more than 350 shipyards, and find the workers, and train them. We have put new shipbuilding down and around our coasts and on the great lakes.

"The Pacific coast answered with a great response, and then came the other district. The great lakes are building ships, and ships built there through the rivers and canals. The great iron and steel section of Pennsylvania is also a great ship section, as is the ocean, and transformed its production from bridges, sky scrapers and other peace-time structures over to ships—great steel ocean carriers and battleships. Today there are 80 per cent of their steel cut and fitted back in the mills, as that it can be put together in the yards at least labor and in the shortest possible time.

"Figures do not tell the whole story of labor's achievement in shipbuilding. We have had to import labor from the trying conditions imposed by war.

"There has been scarcity in food, with ever rising prices, so that the task set today may be far from fair tomorrow. Our government has never stinted men in money. Yet with all the money in Uncle Sam's treasury it would not be possible to provide justly for every worker every day. But, with all these difficulties, we have had practically none of the so-called labor troubles, and there has never been a time when the men in the shipyards could not be counted upon to keep work going.

"The demand made upon the workers by the emergency fleet corporation and shipyard managers has been met with hearty response.

"We have today, in our new ship building plants, a force equal to that upon which we worked, and those of us who have the managing and planning to do have the right to expect that team work rests with us rather than the men in the yards."

"BLOW AT ILLITERACY."

Albany, N. Y., July 13.—Under the above caption the Albany Knickerbocker Press thus describes the people's will-power as manifested in bills which have become laws:

"The Americans who cannot read and write English is not much use as a citizen. Most of those who constitute a peril to our government are in this class. Education is no guarantee of morals, but the absence of any schooling is a source of danger.

New York state has ranked rather high in its percentage of illiteracy, due largely to the great number of immigrants who enter at this state. Other states which receive large numbers of foreigners have probably the same problem—a problem which is to be met, so far as New York is concerned, by legislation proposed two years ago by Commissioner Finley, and enacted by the recent legislature.

"These measures are twofold in number. The first provides for the training of the illiterate adult foreigner. Illiterates over the age of sixteen. The second makes it mandatory for all children to attend school up to the age who have not such ability to speak, read and write English as will qualify for the completion of the fifth grade in the public schools, to attend either day or evening schools, and they have reached that standing. They may go to work at any place, trade, occupation or industrial schools, day or either day or night, as they wish, but sufficient school attendance is required of all minors and for those who have control of them or who employ them in violation of the law. It is provided that they will get the required instruction free. Provision is made for the establishment and maintenance in cities and in union free school districts of such classes necessary to carry out the plan.

LADY DOCK WALLOPERS.

Brooklyn, N. Y., July 12.—Sixteen women bundle girls are working daily with 132-pound bags of coffee between the docks and trucks, standing side by side with muscular men long used to this hard job. They are the first women ever employed by the New York Dock company.

There would be 19 of these female dock walloperes were it not for the fact that three of the number engaged were fired on account of their cussing.

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